

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Kindly amend paragraph “[0005]”, on page 3 of the Specification, as follows:

~~Figure 1 shows one construction~~ is a side view of the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, with examples of representative dimensions. The dimensions of the tool shown ~~on the figure in Figure 1~~ are those of the prototype tool that has been built and tested successfully. However, [[Other]] other dimensions may be equally effective for other constructions. Details such as the shape of the hand grip at the upper end of the tool, the method of attachment of the hand grip, the method of construction of the open-jawed mouth, or the method of attachment of the mouth may vary from Figure 1. This figure is not drawn to scale.

Kindly amend paragraph “[0006]”, on page 3 of the Specification, as follows:

~~Figure~~ Figures 2 is a partial side view of the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, illustrating the open-jawed mouth of a tool having a single-piece construction.

Figure 3 is a partial side view of the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, illustrating an embodiment of the present invention wherein the open-jawed mouth of the tool has a welded construction, and having friction ridges disposed on both a welded portion 11 and the connecting rod 9.

Figure 4 is a partial side view of the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, illustrating an embodiment of the present invention wherein the open-jawed mouth of the tool has a welded construction, and having friction ridges 14 disposed only on a welded portion 11.

Figure 5 is a partial side view of the friction grip fireplace tool 8 of the present invention, illustrating an embodiment of the present invention wherein the open-jawed mouth 10 of the tool is coupled to the connecting rod 9 via a coupling.

~~through 5 show examples of 4 constructions of the open-jawed mouth. Other constructions may vary from these figures.~~

Kindly amend paragraph “[0006]”, on page 3 of the Specification, as follows:

Figure 6 is a partial side view of the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, illustrating an embodiment of the hand grip wherein the hand grip 13 is a U-shaped hand grip formed contiguously with the connecting rod 9 of the tool.

Figure 7 is a partial side view of the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, illustrating an embodiment of the hand grip 13 wherein the hand grip is a U-shaped hand grip coupled to the connecting rod 9 of the tool via a coupling.

Figure 8 is a partial side view of the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, illustrating an embodiment of the hand grip wherein the show examples of 3 constructions of the hand grip 13 is uncurved and contiguous with the connecting rod 9. Other constructions may vary from these figures.

Kindly amend paragraph “[0008]”, on page 3 of the Specification, as follows:

Figure 9 is a side view illustrating a first step in an operation to move a log using the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, wherein the numerical label “1” serves as a reference for the textual description of the process used with the tool of the present invention in the Detailed Description of the Invention, and wherein the arrow illustrated direction of movement of the tool.

Figure 10 is a side view illustrating a second step in an operation to move a log using the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, wherein the numerical labels “2” and “3” serve as references for the textual description of the process used with the tool of the present invention in the Detailed Description of the Invention, and where the small arrow illustrates the direction of force applied by the log, and the larger arrow illustrates the direction of force applied by the tool.

Figure 11 is a side view illustrating a third step in an operation to move a log using the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, wherein the numerical labels “4” and “5” serve as references for the textual description of the process used with the tool of the present invention in the Detailed Description of the Invention, wherein the opposing arrows illustrate the directions of force applied by the open-jawed mouth 10 of

the tool, and the up pointing arrow adjacent numeral “5” illustrates the direction of movement of the log 12 being gripped by the tool.

Figure 12 is a side view illustrating a fourth step in an operation to move a log using the friction grip fireplace tool of the present invention, wherein the numerical labels “6” and “7” serve as references for the textual description of the process used with the tool of the present invention in the Detailed Description of the Invention, wherein the arrow adjacent numeral “7” illustrates the direction of travel of the log 12, and wherein the arrow adjacent numeral “6” illustrates the direction of force applied by the tool 8.

~~through 12 illustrate how the invention can be used to move a log in a fireplace. The process illustrated moves from left to right (Figure 9 to Figure 12). The numerical labels (1 through 7) serve as references for the textual description of the process given in the Detailed Description. The broad arrows illustrate directions of motions and forces. The fire grate and logs are not part of the invention.~~

Kindly amend paragraph “[0009]”, on page 4 of the Specification, as follows:

The applicant’s invention, as illustrated in Figure 1, provides ~~[[is]]~~ a fireplace tool 8 to be used to grip, lift, reposition and release burning logs. A burning log is gripped with this tool 8 by placing the open-jawed mouth end 10 of the tool 8 near the center of the log 12 and pushing the mouth 10 firmly against the log 12. The open-jawed mouth 10 is unary in that it is constructed of a single structural element, with no pivot points, joints or moving parts in the mouth (or the entire tool). Constructed of steel or a material with similar modulus of elasticity, the unary mouth 10 acts as a v-shaped spring that resists the forced widening of the mouth’s opening. Pushing the resilient, unary, v-shaped, open-jawed mouth 10 over a fire log 12 thus produces a spring effect, i.e., the sides of the mouth 10 spring back against the log 12, and the friction ridges 14 around the inner perimeter of the mouth 10 produce a pronounced friction effect upon the log 12. The combination of the spring effect and the friction effect cause the mouth 10 to grip a log 12 tightly, allowing a burning log to be conveniently lifted, moved about and released, without manipulating any levers, tongs or moving parts. A ¼ round, ½ round, or whole round log can be conveniently handled with this tool. Tapping the mouth 10 of the tool

8 against another log, the firebox, grate, dog irons, or any other solid object in the fireplace releases the log into position.

Kindly amend paragraph “[00010]”, on page 4 of the Specification, as follows:

Figures 9 through 12 illustrate an example of use of the tool 8. The sequential numbering of the following description corresponds to the numbers shown in these figures.

1. The pointed tip 16 disposed ~~[[of the]]~~ on one side of the mouth 10 is pushed under the log 12 to be lifted.
2. The mouth 10 is pushed onto the log 12.
3. The force of the push of the mouth 10 against the log 12 causes the mouth 10 to open in a manner consistent with the elasticity of the tool material (e.g., steel). The spring force resisting the opening of the mouth 10 creates gripping force on the log 12, and the friction ridges 14 within the mouth 10 enhance the grip, preventing the log 12 from slipping out of the open end of the mouth 10.
4. The grip of the tool 8 on the log 12 allows the log 12 to be lifted and moved freely.
5. The log 12 is moved to a new position in the fireplace.
6. The pointed tip 16 of the mouth 10 is tapped against an object in the fireplace, thereby causing to cause the mouth 10 to release the log 12.
7. The log 12 is released into the new position.

Kindly amend paragraph “[00012]”, bridging pages 4 and 5 of the Specification, as follows:

This tool 8 can be fabricated from one solid piece of steel or other fire-resistant material with a similar modulus of elasticity, with a hand grip 13 on one end, and on ~~the~~ an end opposite the hand grip 13, the open-jawed mouth 10. In this one-piece

~~construction~~ embodiment of the tool 8, the open-jawed mouth 10 is formed by a double bend in the connecting rod 9 (see Figure 1). The first bend turns the end of the connecting rod 9 back toward the handle grip 13 180 degrees, or parallel to the connecting rod 9. The second bend turns the connecting rod 9 end at an angle from parallel to the connecting rod 9. In the embodiment construction of the present invention (which is a working prototype) shown in Figure 1, that angle is 22 degrees. The most effective angle for a given construction will depend on the tool material used, the size of the connecting rod 9, and the size of the mouth opening 10, which may be varied for different constructions. The ~~construction of the tool 8~~ shown in Figure 1 ~~[[is]]~~ may be made of a single piece of steel, metal or other material having appropriate elasticity (similar to steel) and properties to withstand the heat of a fire. Around the inner perimeter of the mouth 10 of the tool 8 are a series of friction ridges 14, the spacing of which may vary with different constructions. On the working prototype shown in Figure 1, the friction ridges 14 are spaced approximately ¼ inch apart. ~~[[These]]~~ The force exerted by these friction ridges 14, along with the spring effect of the mouth 10, create the necessary friction to grip and lift logs.

Kindly amend paragraph “[00013]”, on page 5 of the Specification, as follows:

In a one-piece construction of the tool 8, the exact location of the bends can be altered to change the size of the mouth opening 10. Using a prototype construction of the tool 8, the applicant has found that the dimensions shown in Figure 1 create a mouth opening that is a good size to lift logs of various sizes. The pointed tip 16 of the tool 8 extends about 2 inches past the first bend and serves as a wedge to allow a user to force the tool ~~[[get]]~~ between logs.